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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032901

63
ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03 INR-10

INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01

SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 AGR-20 OPIC-12

NEA-11 PRS-01 /193 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DHSIMPSON:DH
APPROVED BY AF/S:WPO'NEILL
AFR/ESA:JKNOLL (DRAFT)
---------- 092748
P R 192111Z FEB 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032901

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS:BC, US, EAID
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE
REF: GABORONE 224 NOTAL

1. VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, TIBONE, AND STEPHENS IN WASHINGTON FEBRUARY 13-16 FOR MEETINGS WITH STATE, AID, AND WORLD BANK OFFICIALS. MASIRE ALSO MET WITH ALASKA INTERNATIONAL AIR (AIA) OFFICIALS AND WAS INTERVIEWED BY DAVID OTTAWAY OF WASHINGTON POST.

2. MASIRE ATTENDED LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 14 HOSTED BY ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROSS AND THEN PROCEEDED TO MEETINGS WITH AID ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ADAMS, ADMINISTRATOR PARKER, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH. AT EACH MEETING, HE CLEARLY AND ELOQUENTLY SET OUT FULL CASE FOR POSITIVE US
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PAGE 02 STATE 032901

RESPONSE TO BOTSWANA'S REQUEST TO UPGRADE ROAD, INCLUDING

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BACKGROUND COMMENT ON ARABS' GENERAL UNRESPONSIVENESS
DURING HIS TRIP.

3. PRINCIPALS LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO MASIRE'S
PRESENTATION AND THEN OUTLINED PRESENT AID SITUATION, NOTING
CONGRESSIONAL REDUCTIONS OF FUNDS AND HOSTILITY TO AID,
CITING HOUSE REFUSAL OF IDA REPLENISHMENT AND RESOLUTIONS
INTRODUCED IN BOTH HOUSES CALLING FOR ABOLITION OF
FOREIGN AID PROGRAM. WITHIN CONTEXT OF DECLINING AID

LEVELS AND COMPETING DEMANDS FOR DIMINISHED FUNDS, MASIRE
WAS NOT ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT BOTSWANA'S REQUEST
WOULD BE APPROVED.

4. WORLD BANK OFFICIAL TOLD DEPARTMENT THAT MASIRE AND
PARTY MET WITH RANGE OF OFFICIALS THERE, FEBRUARY 15
INCLUDING SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR BANK OPERATIONS
BURKE KNAPP. (PRESIDENT MCNAMARA WAS OUT OF TOWN.)
BOTSWANA ASKED THAT THE BANK ACCELERATE ITS APPRAISAL
OF MAHALAPYE-SERULE ROAD, OMITTING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY.
BANK RESPONDED IT WILLING BYPASS FEASIBILITY STUDY AND
WAS ENCOURAGING ON NOT DEMANDING TOO HIGH RATE OF RETURN
ON ROAD. AT SAME TIME, BANK MADE NO COMMITMENT TO BUILD
ROAD UNTIL APPRAISAL COMPLETED. BANK ALSO WILL AWAIT
RESULTS OF IMMINENT VISIT BY CREDITWORTHINESS MISSION
TO BOTSWANA BEFORE MAKING FURTHER COMMITMENTS.

5. MASIRE ALSO MET FEBRUARY 14 WITH OFFICIALS OF ALASKA
INTERNATIONAL AIR WHO PRESENTED FEASIBILITY STUDY OF
ESTIMATED $10 MILLION JET AIRPORT FOR GABORONE,
INCLUDING SURVEY OF MARKET FOR BOTSWANA CHILLED BEEF IN
EUROPE. HE ALSO MET INFORMALLY WITH CONGRESSMAN DIGGS
AND INTERVIEWED BY DAVID OTTAWAY OF THE POST FEBRUARY 14.
INTERVIEW RESULTED IN SYMPATHETIC ARTICLE LINKING OIL
WOES OF LDCS IN GENERAL AND BOTSWANA IN PARICULAR WITH
GROWING AFRICAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH ARABS.

6. DEPARTMENT PLANS RESPOND PRESIDENT KHAMA'S LETTER
TO SECRETARY KISSINGER REGARDING ROAD WITHIN A FEW DAYS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, CONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, VISITS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, MEETINGS, BANK LOANS, HIGHWAYS, AIRPORTS, JET AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE032901
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DHSIMPSON:DH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740223/aaaaavzw.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: GABORONE 224 NOTAL
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <29 NOV 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE
TAGS: EAID, BC, US, WORLD BANK, STATE, ALASKA INTERNATIONAL AIR, (MASIRE, QUETT K J)
To: GABORONE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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